



5.11.2020

Submission to the Marlborough District Council (MDC) on Dog By-Law Review, from: Te Ātiawa Manawhenua Ki Te Tau Ihu Trust

Te Ātiawa Trust supports many of the aims and measures described in this document and, as Tangata Whenua Iwi (holding mana moana and mana whenua status in its Rohe), wishes to draw your attention to some concerns and additions particularly relevant to our Rohe in Waitohi and Waikawa.

We support the restriction of dogs to leashes in the area north of Queen Charlotte Yacht Club and on tracks on Victoria Domain. In addition, we seek signage to educate the public and dog owners on the issues for sensitive wildlife in the area.

With the removal of the old yacht club building, penguins have been displaced and are in temporary nests north of the new yacht club and along the shoreline towards Bobs Bay. ***This penguin colony is in need of urgent protection.*** We feel that greater cooperation from dog owners can be achieved by *clear signage about the wildlife*, to attain cooperation for lead use.

Other bird life (wekas, spoonbills, shags, gulls, ducks) will also benefit from this restriction of dogs to leads on the Victoria Domain and around Shelly Beach.

Cooperation from dog owners can also be achieved by offering accessible and sufficient areas for off leash exercise (it is noted that the bylaw states the need for dogs to have adequate exercise.) Large active dogs are not able to receive adequate exercise without regular access to large off-leash areas.

Areas in Waitohi and Waikawa for dog off-leash exercise are few and inadequate and therefore need protecting and their management reviewed for this purpose. We would like to draw your attention to the fact that Memorial Park, the main off-leash area for Waitohi (east side) is often unavailable for use as a dog off leash area owing to the use of this park as a car and trailer park for many months each year. We recommend that MDC review the use of this valuable green space, which is currently being removed from overall community use for the summer months and beyond. (This has serious implications for the wider community use.)

A comment on the Auckland Street off-leash area is also made: This is a valuable exercise area for dogs but also, owing to the awa flowing through it, a valuable area for wildlife. We would like to see signage alerting people to the wildlife in the southern area of the park and asking for dog owners to be vigilant.

Further, with the health of the Rohe and wildlife in mind, we note that the new draft bylaw has not dealt with the ongoing problem of dog faeces. We understand this is a difficult problem but the plastic bag and bin solution is clearly not environmentally acceptable in these more informed days.

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/105892063/should-we-leave-dog-poo-in-our-postplastic-fantastic-world>

We wish to see that environmentally more acceptable options are being actively explored by the MDC in order to protect the mauri of our valuable Rohe.

We note and support that the MDC has made clear efforts to separate dogs from mountain bikes on the Victoria Domain. This safety action is supported in a submission from whānau member Philip Simm.

Further, we wish to support the submission on this draft bylaw made by Kaipupu Point Wildlife Trust, which we work with on an ongoing basis in order to protect the wildlife of our Rohe.

Please give serious consideration to these important matters raised by Te Ātiawa as kaitiaki.



Ian Shapcott

Kaitiaki o te Taiao / Guardians of the Environment

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